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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**17 JANUARY 2018**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) Loma Linda – California Hospitals Face Growing Flu Epidemic**

(U) An influenza strain known as H3N2 is making people so ill that thousands have shown up in recent weeks at hospitals struggling to fight the infection. The large numbers of flu patients are straining hospital staff who are confronting what could become California's worst flu season in a decade. Hospitals across the state are sending away ambulances, flying in nurses from out of state and not letting children visit their loved ones to prevent spreading the flu.

SOURCE: 16 January 2018, [LA Times](#)

(U) Los Angeles – LA County Deputy Charged with Selling Drugs and Offering to Protect Dealers

(U) A Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy has been charged with operating a large-scale drug trafficking scheme in which he boasted that he hired other officers to provide security to dealers and could assault people for his clients, according to court records. The deputy and three other men were arrested by FBI agents yesterday morning in a sting operation when they arrived to what they thought was a drug deal, according to records unsealed after the arrest.

SOURCE: 16 January 2018, [LA Times](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) District of Columbia – Pentagon Suggests Countering Large-Scale Cyberattacks with Nuclear Arms**

(U) Washington – A newly drafted US nuclear strategy that has been sent to President Trump for approval would permit the use of nuclear weapons to respond to a wide range of devastating but non-nuclear attacks on American infrastructure, including what current and former government officials described as the most crippling kind of cyberattacks. It cited not only Russian and Chinese nuclear advances but advances made by North Korea and potentially Iran.

SOURCE: 16 January 2018, [New York Times](#)

(U) District of Columbia – 73 Percent of Individuals Charged with Terrorism by US Are Foreign Born

(U) Washington – DHS and DOJ released a report yesterday that highlights the number of immigrants arrested and convicted in the US for terrorism-related activities over the past decade and a half. The report reveals that US federal courts convicted 549 people with international terrorism-related charges between 11 September 2001 and 31 December 2016. Nearly three-quarters of those charged were foreign-born; 148 of them were naturalized US citizens.

SOURCE: 16 January 2018, [Newsweek](#)

(U) Nevada – Indictment in Las Vegas Mass Shooting Is Possible, Authorities Say

(U) Las Vegas – Stephen Paddock was the only gunman involved in the attack on an outdoor music festival in Las Vegas last fall, but yesterday police said criminal charges could be filed in the mass shooting that left 58 people dead. The revelation came in district court as the lawyer representing the

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Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, argued to keep search warrants, affidavits and findings sealed as charges were being investigated. The lawyer said that because the investigation was ongoing, he couldn't reveal who those charges might be aimed at or what they might entail.

SOURCE: 16 January 2018, [LA Times](#)

(U) Texas – Authorities Seize \$2.3M Worth of Marijuana from California Couple's Motor Home

(U) Rhome – A man and women road-tripping from California were stopped on 14 January in Wise County with more than \$2 million worth of marijuana in their motor home. In all, 677 pounds of marijuana worth \$2.3 million was seized. David Kwan, 59, and Cuixin Chen, 45, both from Gardena, CA were arrested. The pair told officials they were traveling to Dallas. Sheriff Lane Akin suspects the marijuana was illegally obtained in California and certainly illegally transported to Dallas.

SOURCE: 17 January 2018, [Dallas News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Nigeria – Nigeria Releases Boko Haram Suspects After Rehabilitation**

(U) Borno – Nigeria's military says it has released 244 rehabilitated Boko Haram suspects. The authorities say they have been de-radicalized and can re-enter society, but critics are skeptical about whether they have been rehabilitated. The group, which includes women and children, has been handed over to the governor of Borno state, an area badly affected by extremist violence. Some 20,000 people have been killed in Boko Haram's eight-year insurgency.

SOURCE: 16 January 2018, [BBC](#)

(U) North Korea – North Korea Linked to New Cryptocurrency Attacks

(U) Pyongyang – North Korea-linked hackers targeted cryptocurrency investors and exchanges just as bitcoin started to soar to record highs, according to a new report. Cybersecurity firm Recorded Future said malware used in the attacks was similar to that used in the Sony Picture hack, the global WannaCry ransomware attack and the major cyber heist that hit Bangladesh's central bank. Recorded Future believes the attacks late last year on South Korean cryptocurrency exchanges and their users was carried about by Lazarus, a hacking group that has been tied to North Korea.

SOURCE: 17 January 2018, [CNN](#)

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